Col. Prouty's Accusations

Many national papers, including The Washington Post, recently produced some sensational headlines by connecting Alexander Butterfield with stories of a sinister CIA "White House connection." I find it disconcerting that the bulk of evidence linking the CIA, Alexander Butterfield and the White House originated with E. Howard Hunt through a talk he had with Col. Leroy Fletcher Prouty. What I question is the apparent blind acceptance of information produced by these two suspect individuals.

In 1973 L. Fletcher Prouty authored "The Secret Team: The CIA and Its Allies in Control of the World," (Prentice-Hall). Prouty's theme concerned a mass conspiracy led by the CIA to subvert and control the American people and the world. Prouty charges that the CIA "positioned CIA personnel and Agency-oriented disciples inconspicuously throughout the Government and in many instances (have) positioned the CIA throughout the business world and academic community as well (pg. 339). Prouty, by his recent defamations, merely attempts to lend credence to the thrust of his book, however tenuous the basis for his charges. He attributes "black" motives to routine liaison assignments of CIA personnel. Intelligence organizations cannot fulfill their statutory obligations in isolation. These liaison posts are a vital part of intelligence—the coordinating and transmitting of information.

Further revelations of CIA "connections" or "infiltrations" should be analyzed in that context before jumping to quote such honest repositories of truth as Prouty and Hunt. I have heard it said that Prouty even accused Daniel Ellsberg of being a CIA agent—does this sound like an objective, accurate piece of information?

Elizabeth Crandall.

McLean.